

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. - 68. (Canceled)

69. (Currently Amended) A system for data communication, the system comprising:

a first circuit card including one or more first interfaces and one or more first logic components for processing control;

a first transfer card coupled to the first circuit card through at least a first base card and a first backplane, the first base card being coupled directly to both the first transfer card and the first backplane, the first base card being neither a part of the first transfer card nor a part of the first backplane, the first transfer card not being a part of the first circuit card, the first circuit card not being a part of the first transfer card;

a second circuit card including one or more second interfaces and one or more second logic components for processing control;

a second transfer card coupled to the second circuit card through at least a second base card and a second backplane, the second base card being coupled directly to both the second transfer card and the second backplane, the second base card being neither a part of the second transfer card nor a part of the second backplane, the second transfer card not being a part of the second circuit card, the second circuit card not being a part of the second transfer card;

a first switched network card to at least perform an exchange function between the first circuit card and the second circuit card, the first switched network card and the first circuit card being different types of cards;

a first interface card coupled to the first switched network card through at least a third base card and a third backplane, the third base card being coupled directly to both the first interface card and the third backplane, the third base card being neither a part of the first interface card nor a part of the third backplane, the first interface card not being a part of the first switched network card, the first switched network card not being a part of the first interface card, the third backplane and the first backplane being associated with different physical locations;

a second interface card coupled to the first switched network card through at least the third backplane;

a first data communication link connecting the first transfer card and the first interface card;

a second data communication link connecting the second transfer card and the second interface card;

wherein:

the first transfer card, the first circuit card, and the first backplane are associated with a first framework;

the first interface card, the second interface card, the first switched network card, and the third backplane are associated with a second framework, the first framework and the second framework being associated with different physical locations;  
and

electrical connections between the first transfer card and the second interface card occur indirectly.

70. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 69 wherein each of the first data communication link and the second data communication link includes an optical fiber.

71. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 69 wherein:  
the first backplane and the second backplane are the same;  
the first base card and the second base card are the same.

72. (Currently Amended) A system for data communication, the system comprising:

- a first circuit card including one or more first interfaces and one or more first logic components for processing control;

- a first transfer card coupled to the first circuit card through at least a first backplane, the first transfer card not being a part of the first circuit card, the first circuit card not being a part of the first transfer card;

- a second circuit card including one or more second interfaces and one or more second logic components for processing control;

- a second transfer card coupled to the second circuit card through at least a second backplane, the second transfer card not being a part of the second circuit card, the second circuit card not being a part of the second transfer card;

- a first switched network card to at least perform an exchange function between the first circuit card and the second circuit card, the first switched network card and the first circuit card being different types of cards;

- a first interface card coupled to the first switched network card through at least a third backplane, the third backplane and the first backplane being associated with different physical locations, the first interface card not being a part of the first switched network card, the first switched network card not being a part of the first interface card;

- a second interface card coupled to the first switched network card through at least the third backplane;

- a first data communication link connecting the first transfer card and the first interface card;

- a second data communication link connecting the second transfer card and the second interface card;

wherein:

- the first transfer card, the first circuit card, and the first backplane are associated with a first framework;

the first interface card, the second interface card, the first switched network card, and the third backplane are associated with a second framework, the first framework and the second framework being associated with different physical locations; each of the first data communication link and the second data communication link includes an optical fiber; and  
electrical connections between the first transfer card and the second interface card occur indirectly.

73. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 72 wherein the first switched network card does not receive any data signal that does not transmit through a circuit card.

74. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 72, and further comprising a second switched network card coupled to both the first interface card and the second interface card.

75. - 77. (Canceled)

78. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 72 wherein the first backplane and the second backplane are the same.

79 - 96. (Canceled)